

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A digital printing apparatus, comprising:
 - a data reading device which can read image data from plural types of recording media;
 - a setting device which sets at least one of the number of prints, types of prints, and a print size;
 - a display device which displays contents set by the setting device;
 - a printing image data generation device which generates printing image data based on the contents set by the setting device from the image data read by the data reading device;
 - at least one printer;
 - a transfer device which transfers to the printer the printing image data generated by the printing image data generation device;
 - a computation device which computes a requisite printing time for contents of a print set by the setting device from a type of image format of image data stored in the recording medium, a print size, and a number of printers; and
 - an execution instruction device which can perform printing execution instruction after displaying the requisite printing time computed by the computation device on the display device; wherein
during printing, the computation device detects a printing execution progress, constantly
computes remaining requisite printing time by newly computing the remaining requisite printing

time based on the printing execution progress, and displays the computed remaining requisite printing time on the display device.

2. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the computation device computes a requisite printing time for the contents set by the setting device further based on types of recording media.

3. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the computation device computes a requisite printing time for contents of a print set by the setting device further from types of print services.

4. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the requisite printing time comprises a time required to read image data from the data reading device, a time required to generate printing image data by the printing image data generation device, a printing image data transfer time by the transfer device and a printing time by the printer.

5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended): A digital printing apparatus, comprising:
a data reading device which can read image data from plural types of recording media;
a setting device which sets at least one of the number of prints, types of prints, and a print size;
a display device which displays contents set by the setting device;

a printing image data generation device which generates printing image data based on the contents set by the setting device from the image data read by the data reading device;

a plurality of printers;

a printer selection device which selects an available printer from among the plurality of printers;

a transfer device which transfers to the printer selected by the printer selection device the printing image data generated by the printing image data generation device;

a computation device which computes a requisite printing time for contents of a print set by the setting device from a type of image format of image data stored in the recording medium, the print size, and a number of the plurality of printers; and

an execution instruction device which can perform printing execution instruction after displaying the requisite printing time computed by the computation device on the display device, wherein

during printing, the computation device detects a printing execution progress, constantly computes remaining requisite printing time by newly computing the remaining requisite printing time based on the printing execution progress, and displays the computed remaining requisite printing time on the display device.

7. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the computation device computes a requisite printing time for contents set by the setting device further based on types of recording media.

8. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the computation device computes a requisite printing time for contents of a print set by the setting device further from types of print services.

9. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the requisite printing time comprises a time required to read image data from the data reading device, a time required to generate printing image data by the printing image data generation device, a printing image data transfer time by the transfer device and a printing time by the printer.

10. (canceled).

11. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the requisite printing time is computed based on a formula, the formula comprising the total number of prints divided by the number of printers.

12. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the requisite printing time is computed based on a formula, the formula comprising the total number of prints divided by the number of the plurality of printers.

13. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the computation device computes the requisite printing time for the contents set by the setting device at least based on each of the type of image format of image data stored in the recording medium, the print size, and the number of printers.

14. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a storage device which stores image generating time information showing image processing time per unit of data size for each type of image format, wherein

the computation device reads out the image processing time per unit of data size corresponding to the type of image format of the image data to be printed from the storage device, and computes the requisite printing time using the processing time per unit of data size and the data size of the image data.

15. (withdrawn): The digital printing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a storage device which stores image generating time information showing image processing time per unit of data size for each type of image format, wherein

the computation device reads out the image processing time per unit of data size corresponding to the type of image format of the image data to be printed from the storage device, and computes the requisite printing time using the processing time per unit of data size and the data size of the image data.